

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested. Claims 1-3, 11-13, 17, 20-21, 29-30, and 33-41 have been canceled. Claims 4, 7, 9-10, 14-15, 18-19, 22-24, 26, 28, and 31-32 have been amended. Claims 42-46 have been added. Claims 4-10, 14-16, 18-19, 22-28, 31-32, and 42-46 are currently pending in the application.

CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 U.S.C. § 102

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 10-21 and 28-41 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Hartman et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,807,636, hereinafter, Hartman). Claims 1-3, 11-13, 17, 20-21, 29-30, and 33-41 have been canceled. Independent claims 10 and 28 have been amended to claim the invention more distinctly.

Independent Claim 10

Independent claim 10, as amended, now recites:

A method of providing an open interoperable security assertion markup language (SAML) session comprising:
receiving, by a first entity, a SAML request from a second entity, comprising an entity identifier;
searching a partner list of said first entity for a record containing a matching entity identifier, wherein said record contains an account mapping and an attribute mapping, wherein said account mapping defines a mapping of an account of said second entity to an account of said first entity, and wherein said attribute mapping defines a mapping of an attribute of said second entity to an attribute of said first entity;
processing said SAML request in accordance with said account mapping and said attribute mapping; and
sending a SAML assertion in response to said SAML request. (Emphasis added)

Claim 10 has been amended to point out more clearly that the record contains an account mapping and an attribute mapping, and that the SAML request is processed in accordance with both these mappings. Such a method is neither disclosed nor suggested by Hartman.

A point to note regarding Hartman is that the mapper of Hartman performs a very different mapping function than that recited in claim 10. Specifically, rather than mapping an account of the second entity to an account of the first entity and an attribute of the second entity to an attribute of the first entity, the mapper of Hartman maps a first request format to a different request format. This is made clear in Col. 12, lines 21-31, wherein it is stated:

The related mapper, which is in the manager process, is called by the manager when the call from the adapter for a SAML attribution assertion is received by the framework manager. The mapper takes the generic request for attributes from the request and translates them in an LDAP call to the Microsoft active directory to retrieve the original user's attributes. The retrieved attributes are transformed into a generic response and returned to the adapter. In this scenario the mapper is using the Microsoft security service, specifically, the Microsoft active directory, as the security service. (Emphasis added)

From this excerpt, it is clear that the purpose of the mapper of Hartman is to translate a request from one format (SAML) to another format (LDAP). There is no mention whatsoever of mapping an account of a second entity to an account of a first entity, or mapping an attribute of the second entity to an attribute of the first entity. Absent this teaching, Hartman cannot anticipate claim 10, as amended. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claim 10 is patentable over Hartman.

Applicants further submit that claims 14-16 and 18-19, which depend from claim 10 and which recite further advantageous aspects of the invention, are likewise patentable over Hartman for at least the same reasons as those given above in connection with claim 10.

Independent Claim 28

Independent claim 28, as amended, now recites:

A system for providing an open and interoperable security assertion markup language (SAML) session comprising:
a first entity comprising:
 a first session module for generating and sending a SAML request, said SAML request comprising an entity identifier; and
a second entity, communicatively coupled to said first entity, comprising:
 a second session module for receiving and processing said SAML request; and
 a partner list, accessible by said second session module, comprising a record that contains a matching entity identifier, said record further containing an account mapping and an attribute mapping, wherein said account mapping defines a mapping of an account of said second entity to an account of said first entity, and wherein said attribute mapping defines a mapping of an attribute of said second entity to an attribute of said first entity;
wherein said second session module searches for said record, processes said SAML request in accordance with said account mapping and said attribute mapping, and sends a SAML assertion in response to said SAML request.
(Emphasis added)

Like claim 10, claim 28 has been amended to point out more clearly that the record contains an account mapping and an attribute mapping, and that the SAML request is processed in accordance with both these mappings. As argued above in connection with claim 10, at least these aspects are not disclosed or suggested by Hartman.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that claim 28 is patentable over Hartman.

Applicants further submit that claims 31 and 32, which depend from claim 28 and which recite further advantageous aspects of the invention, are likewise patentable over Hartman for at least the same reasons as those given above in connection with claim 28.

Allowable Subject Matter

In the Office Action, the Examiner acknowledged that claims 4-9 and 22-27 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of

the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants thank the Examiner for this acknowledgement. Accordingly, claims 4-9 and 22-27 have been so amended.

New Claims

New claims 42-46 have been added to claim the invention with the breadth and scope to which Applicants believe they are entitled. Applicants submit that these claims are patentable over Hartman.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that all of the pending claims are patentable over the art of record, including the art cited but not applied. Accordingly, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited.

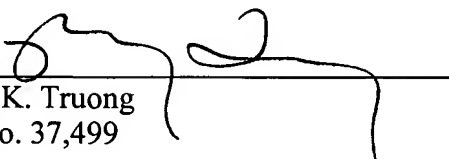
The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (408) 414-1080 to discuss any issue that may advance prosecution.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee that may be due in connection with this Reply to our Deposit Account No. 50-1302.

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

on January 30, 2007 By 